

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13
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O 242223Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6297
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION USUN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3647

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: ALLON DISCUSSES ELECTION AND CARETAKER GOVERNMENT

1. DURING MY INITIAL CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON MAY 24, HE DISCUSSED LAST WEEK'S ELECTION RESULTS, THE COALITION FORMATION, AND THE DUTIES OF THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT. I FOUND HIM SUBDUED AND RATHER PHILOSOPHICAL, BUT NOT DESPONDENT, AND WITH NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT LAST WEEK'S VERDICT. AS HE PUT IT, "A DROP FROM 51 SEATS TO 32 IS A DEFEAT, NOT A DECLINE." HE SAID LABOR PARTY LEADERS HAD NEGLECTED THE PARTY TOO LONG AND SEVERAL TIMES HE EMPHASIZED THE CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF NEXT MONTH'S HISTADRUT ELECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF HIS PARTY.

2. ALLON SAID THE PARTY LEADERSHIP IS FIRM ABOUT REMAINING OUTSIDE THE COALITION, EITHER AS THE
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ALIGNMENT ALONE OR PERHAPS IN A BLOC WITH THE DMC. HE FEELS THE ELECTION RESULTS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE PEOPLE WANTED A CHANGE AND WANTED THE LABOR PARTY IN OPPOSITION AND "WE GOT THE MESSAGE." HE SAID LABOR CAN BE A GOOD OPPOSITION AND PLAY A USEFUL ROLE THERE.

3. ALLON STRESSED THE CONTINUITY OF THE KNESSET AND THE

CABINET, SAYING THAT EACH FUNCTIONS UNTIL THE SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION IS INSTALLED. I ASKED ABOUT ISSUES THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT MIGHT FACE. HE LISTED THE UNDOF MANDATE RENEWAL (SEPTTEL) AND SEVERAL OTHERS:

A) THE GOI WILL UNDERTAKE NO INITIATIVES REGARDING GENEVA.

B) IT WILL CONTINUE ITS PRESENT POLICIES IN THE TERRITORIES, ACCESS TO THE HOLY PLACES, AND THE OPEN BRIDGE.

C) IT WILL ATTEMPT TO NAIL DOWN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL.

D) THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE TERRITORIES, I.E., NO UNAUTHORIZED SETTLEMENTS.

(I HAD ASKED BOUT A MAARIV REPORT THAT THE GUSH EMUNIM PLANNED 20 NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. ALLON SAID THIS WAS TYPICAL GUSH AGITATION AND PRESSURE ON BEGIN.)

4. ALLON, AT THE END OF OUR DISCUSSION, SAID THAT WHOEVER THE NEW PRIME MINISTER MAY BE AND WHATEVER THE COALITION COMBINATION MAY BE, ISRAEL'S FRIENDS ABROAD SHOULD RESPECT THE NEW GOVERNMENT. IT MUST BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO PUT ITS PROGRAM INTO ACTION AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF ISRAEL'S FRIENDS NOT EVEN APPEAR TO USE PRESSURE OR TO EXPRESS A NEGATIVE APPROACH TO THE
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NEW GOVERNMENT. I SAID THIS WAS CONSISTENT WITH OUR PRESENT APPROACH. WE WERE ADOPTING A LOW PROFILE AND WOULD WATCH AND WAIT TO SEE HOW THINGS DEVELOPED; NOR WOULD WE MAKE ADVANCE JUDGMENTS OR ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE POLICIES OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, I CALLED ALLON'S ATTENTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S PUBLIC REAFFIRMATION OF OUR CONVICTION THAT EVERY EFFORT MUST CONTINUE TO MOVE IN DIRECTION OF GENUINE PEACE SETTLEMENT.
LEWIS

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